

assisted in the development of Togliatti's Chamber of Commerce and the Flint Rotary helped found its counterpart in Togliatti.

Remembering not only the relationships between organizations, Flint and Togliatti will also celebrate the flourishing exchange of their citizens and the friendships that have blossomed as a result of the Sister Cities program. Flint will honor this milestone with events between September 6 and September 10th. Togliatti will commemorate the anniversary with events between September 20 and September 24th.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Flint, Michigan and Togliatti, Russia for embracing the spirit of the Sister Cities program. The affinity that has evolved between these two communities is an example to everyone that people everywhere can live in harmony and realize their aspirations through friendship and goodwill.

RECOGNIZING BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN/USA

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Business and Professional Women/USA for their longtime commitment to equality in the workplace and for their efforts to promote full participation, equity and economic self-sufficiency for America's working women.

Our nation has made considerable achievements in the fight for equality with women-owned businesses accounting for over one-third of all firms in the United States. These women-owned businesses provide employment for one out of every four U.S. workers. However, more needs to be done. There are numerous social, educational, economic and political barriers to achieving real equality and self-sufficiency in many areas of the world and public policy makers must strive to correct these inequities.

I would like to join Business and Professional Women/USA in recognizing National Business Women's Week which runs from October 21 through October 25, 2002. I urge all public and community organizations to join this salute by celebrating the achievements and the contributions that business and professional women have made to our society and daily lives.

H.R. 5005, ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, for the past two days, the House of Representatives has debated legislation establishing a Department of Homeland Security. The need for this important federal department resulted from the cruel and unprovoked surprise attack on America that occurred in the morning hours of September 11, 2001.

Let me begin by saying that I strongly support protecting our borders; I strongly support protecting our citizens in their daily lives; I strongly support the President, in the authority which Congress gave him to battle terrorism at home and abroad to protect the American way of life. However, I cannot support these protections if we weaken individual civil liberties, limit the ability of citizens to know what our government is doing in their name, and gut worker rights to accomplish these objectives.

I was very encouraged by the initial steps taken by the various House Committees as we began crafting the legislation to implement the President's proposal for the new department. Unfortunately, the final product of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security bypassed much of the early outstanding bipartisan work of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the bill considered and passed by the Select Committee that we consider today does not include many sound and sensible provisions passed by the committees with expertise. In addition, the Select Committee added a number of flawed and controversial provisions, which were neither proposed by the President nor considered by the committees of jurisdiction. Creating a brand new cabinet level Department of Homeland Security is something that should require months and months of research, committee work, and understanding to properly ensure initiatives are in place to reduce risk and respond to terrorists' attacks.

These last two days have been very frustrating. Although a bipartisan group has tried to correct many of H.R. 5005's shortcomings, the leadership has decided not to improve this bill. We repeatedly tried to fix this bill so that a nearly unanimous majority could support final passage. Unfortunately, that will not be the case.

Mr. Speaker, there are several troublesome provisions in this bill, H.R. 5005, which raise questions as to its ability to secure the homeland, its ability to keep Congress and the American people adequately apprised of governmental activities, and its ability to protect the rights of the department's new employees.

The House defeated an amendment to protect the civil service rights of the nearly 170,000 federal employees who will move to the new department. H.R. 5005 also failed to protect federal whistle-blowers that might uncover problems or inadequacies in the new department. We also have reduced access to government documents for average Americans by restricting Freedom of Information Act requests, which are critical to our open form of government. We also failed to approve a provision to strike an extension of the airline baggage-screening deadline.

I believe we in Congress must do everything in our power to strengthen our borders and take the necessary steps to ensure that the events of September 11th never occur again. However, the bill before us takes many unnecessary steps in the name of Homeland Security. Unfortunately, for these and other reasons, I cannot support final passage of this legislation.

Our efforts during these last two days were not done in vain. What we were able to do, Mr. Speaker, is highlight many areas of this legislation that must be improved during Conference.

We tried to protect our tradition of open and accountable government. We opposed efforts

to gratuitously protect irresponsible corporations, including those that incorporate offshore to avoid paying their share of the war on terrorism and those who knowingly make faulty products.

We opposed efforts to retain the President's plan to dismantle civil service protections and guaranteeing that the new department will not have the best possible workforce.

We opposed efforts to create a huge, costly, and inefficient 1950s style government bureaucracy that will likely take years before it functions properly.

The attempts to strengthen this legislation were undertaken to make the American people safer and ensure that those Americans who work each day in this new Department have the tools, securities, and worker protections in place, as other federal workers, to battle terrorism and keep the homeland safe.

I am hopeful that when Congress reconvenes in September that the Conference Committee will return to both chambers a Homeland Security bill that is the product of strong bipartisan effort. I believe we can and we must create an effective Department of Homeland Security that simultaneously protects the homeland, protects workers, and protects our basic freedoms and civil liberties.

COMMENDING MICHELLE
CHRISTINE PRESSON

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of Michelle Presson on behalf of the citizens of the 4th District of Virginia. On August 31, 2002, Michelle, who has served as my Senior Advisor and Legislative Director, will leave Capitol Hill for another full time and demanding position, that of a mother to her daughter Abigail.

Over the past ten years, Michelle has proudly and competently served three other Members of this body as Legislative Assistant, Legislative Counsel and Legislative Director. Congressman CHRIS SMITH, Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW and former Congresswoman Tillet Fowler have all had the honor of having Michelle on their respective staffs. Michelle is the type of person and employee that any Member would be honored to have on their team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in saluting Michelle for her distinguished service and commitment to this body and to the people of Virginia's 4th District. Just as we will never forget what she has done here, the numerous constituents she has served well over the last ten years will not forget either. She has enriched the lives of those whom she served. Michelle leaves Capitol Hill with our gratitude for a job well done. I commend her for her dedication to her family and am confident that she will excel in the noble profession of motherhood. Michelle is the very embodiment of the words service and dedication and it is fitting that the House of Representatives honor her this day.